

CARNABY WOOLS LTD

THE CARNABY "CROFTER" DESIGN CONCEPT

TED CRAWFORD, designer of the Carnaby "CROFTER" is a perfectionist. He is also a seasoned spinner. He has travelled extensively throughout New Zealand noting the details of many wheels and knows all the techniques required to make an upright wheel really sing.

Seldom is this kind of spinning knowledge utilised to produce a wheel that has all the refinements of a fully equipped correct ratio machine plus the comfort of use and the ease of handling, that comes from using accurate engineering principals and careful craftsmanship with special attention to quality control.

The design concept was simple, yet it took months to achieve. The result is as near perfect as you will ever see. The mark of the perfectionist shows through in every detail.

Below we outline each detail the designer was aiming for, followed by a brief explanation of how this was achieved.

- AIM** *To produce an upright wheel of unrivalled treading comfort.*
- RESULT** A correctly designed treadle capable of supporting both feet and with an overlap past the front treadle bar for "heel & toe" comfort and ease of spinning. The treadle does not level out at the bottom of the stroke and therefore no instep fatigue.
- AIM** *To produce an upright that can be comfortably used at true spinning wheel height.*
- RESULT** Many uprights have too high an orifice height and one has to spin up to the orifice. Not so with the "CROFTER", the height is correct for spinning chairs and most lounge chair heights.
- AIM** *To produce a wheel that spins on and on in spinning capacity.*
- RESULT** The "CROFTER" has probably the largest bobbin to be seen on an upright. This results in less change in the stem for an equal amount of yarn being spun than say for a shorter or smaller diameter bobbin. A terrific asset in any wheel.
- AIM** *To ensure that the orifice capability was sufficient for all modern spinning needs.*
- RESULT** The orifice is almost 1/2" in diameter, which allows for the most up to date bulky spinning and yet with the orifice outlet so positioned does not interfere with even the finest spinning if desired.
- AIM** *To produce a wheel with a correct flyer pulley and bobbin pulley ratio to allow fine spinning and thick spinning.*
- RESULT** A two-speed or double pulley flyer with the latest correct pulley ratios incorporated. For medium heavy yarns, the large pulley at 2.0 ratio, and for spinning fine yarn the small pulley at a ratio of 1.2 is used. Note also that the bobbin groove is a definite U shape to accommodate the different functions.
- AIM** *To produce a wheel that is accurately engineered, spins correctly and easily, and is completely silent in operation*
- RESULT** A double band wheel needs to be made by a professional spinning wheel maker who is conversant with not only the engineering requirements of the wheel but also with the requirements of the spinner as well. The marriage of the designer with Sharp & Page Ltd of Auckland, known for their engineering excellence produced just such a result.
- AIM** *To produce a wheel that is elegant and beautiful with a superior grade quality furniture finish from the polishing room.*
- RESULT** That this has been achieved, there is no possible doubt. The harmony and true beauty of this wheel allows it to grace the finest of modern living rooms.
- AIM** *To have a true Niddy Noddy capability direct from the fitted bobbin, thus allowing for true portability in all aspects of operation.*
- RESULT** The wheel is fitted with an optional double drive band and a scotch brake capability. This means that after plying is completed, the scotch brake can be fitted and the yarn transferred to a niddy noddy without the irritating backlash experienced from a lazy kate. It also means, that the wheel is more portable because a lazy kate does not need to be carried.